are valuable historical dates, but if any Vermonter knows all or even half of them, he is a remarkable person.

Bennington County	1779
Windham County	1781
Orange County	1781
Rutland County	1781
Windsor County	1781
Addison County	1785
Chittenden County	1787
Caledonia County	1796
Franklin County	1796
Essex County	1797
Orleans County	1797
Grand Isle County	1801
Lamoille County	1836

OUR STORY OF THE MONTH

Most of the stories that drift into the present from earlier days deal with the eccentricities of men or their experiences. Now and then a woman appears on the scene, usually treated mildly, for [illegible] monters have never seemed to [illegible] amusement in the unfortunate experi[illegible] of others. This tale deals with the [illegible] when a "Squire" was an honored and [illegible] emplary figure in a community. [illegible] husband was summoned before the Squ[illegible] on the charge that she carried on her [illegible] tocks—as testified to by two [illegible] friends—black and blue welts which [illegible] husband had inflicted. The Squire [illegible] astonished and said to the husband: "[illegible] mean that you spanked her with the [illegible] end of a broom!" "I did, Squire. [illegible] door was open on the porch. The [illegible] was there. She was there, leaning [illegible] the woodbox, jawing me about the [illegible] kindling. I'd been thinking of it [illegible] years. It's been gathering on me. [illegible] was there, so was the broom, so was I. [illegible] I took the chance." He straighte[illegible] proudly. "I don't care what you [illegible] me, Squire. I won't say I repent of [illegible]

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONTPELIER, VERMONT.
Leon S. Gay, President; Dr. Arthur W. Peach, Director and Editor,
Mrs. Louise E. Koier, Associate Editor.

VHS *News and Notes*
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Montpelier, Vermont

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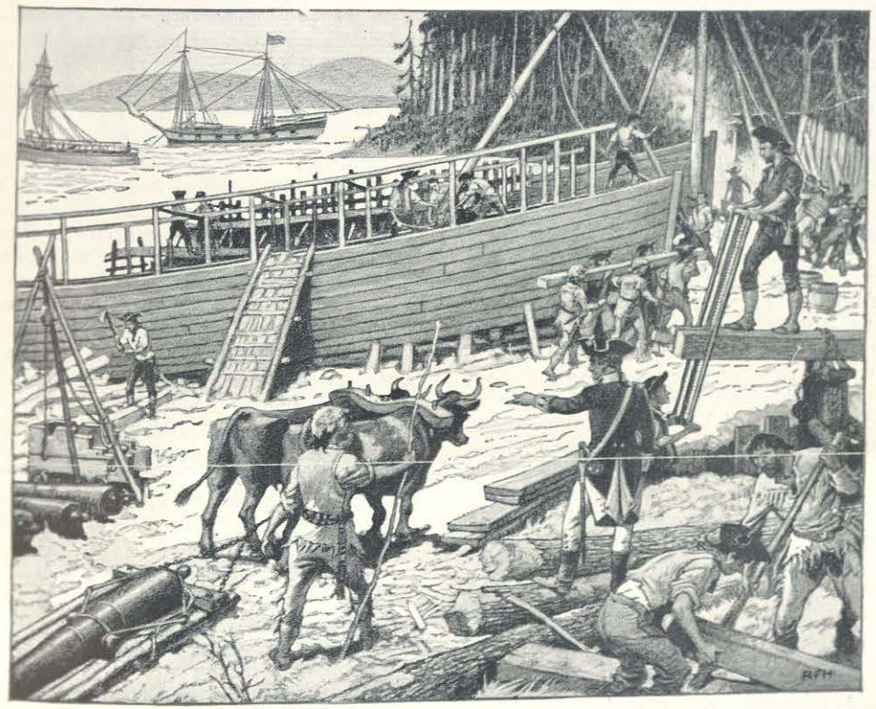
THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONTPELIER, VERMONT

News & Notes

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

Volume 2 August 1951 Number 12



The Urgent Hours — Arnold Prepares for the Battle of Valcour Island

THE PRESENT TENSE OF THE HISTORIC PAST

Keynote of Champlain Historians at Sixth Conference, August 16. **L. K.**

Despite intermittent showers outside, 110 Champlain Historians spent a memorable day at the Basin Harbor Club August 16, learning how the historic past can be translated for the layman into terms of immediate present-day experience. Under the able guidance of President Leon S. Gay in the morning and Judge Berne A. Pyrke in the afternoon, a stimulating panel of speakers discussed the available media for making history live, not just for the research man and the historically minded, but for those who might otherwise never dip into its fascinating pages.

After a few words of welcome from Lieut. Governor Joseph Johnson on behalf of the State of Vermont, William Foss, Assistant Director of the Division of Lands and Forests of the New York State Conservation Department, gave a very competent account of "The Conservation Resources of the Champlain Valley." Starting with the records of the earliest sawmill in Wolfsboro in 1767, he traced the economic history, first of the great pine forests of pioneer days and then of the red pine, Norway pine, oak, bass and ashwood stands. He also emphasized the

recreational possibilities of the Champlain watershed in both Vermont and New York, and traced the steps New York has already taken to utilize these possibilities.

Speaking on the "Manuscript and Library Resources of the Champlain Valley," Miss Eleanor Murray, Assistant Director and General Manager of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum, gave us exciting glimpses of the original diaries, letters, orderly books and broadsides in the archives at Ticonderoga. The code of honor among officers on both sides and the treatment of officer prisoners, the almost unbelievable hardships of the American soldiers, the fears of Arnold's men — these are just a few of the sidelights Miss Murray's quotations from documentary evidence cast on the Battle of Ticonderoga. She particularly stressed the painstaking research of such writers as Kenneth Roberts and Carl Van Doren and the danger of distorting fact by one's own interpretation of the wording of documents. "Manuscripts," she said, "are living things," and her audience, completely under the spell of her excerpts from the Ticonderoga archives, could well agree with her.

Against this background of Ticonderoga and its men, William R. Folsom's vivid word picture of "The Battle of Valcour Island" brought the morning to a satisfying climax. Bringing with him an original letter of Arnold in which the General tells of the difficulties of equipping and manning his fleet, Mr. Folsom made his audience see the events leading up to the Battle of Valcour Island, the inspired genius of Arnold as organizer and commander, the preparation of the fleet, the hard-fought battle against overwhelming odds and the miraculous escape of the crippled American navy. Although two members of the audience had read the paper three times, once in typescript and twice in proof, its presentation was so compelling that much of the material seemed new. Mr. Folsom's listeners left the conference room with a deep pride in the men who fought at Valcour and an increased appreciation of the great services Benedict Arnold rendered the country he was later to betray.

After the delicious lunch planned by Mr. Allen P. Beach, proprietor of the Basin Harbor Club, at 2:00 P. M. the Historians convened in the conference room for the second half of the program. Here Earle W. Newton, former director of VHS and now director of Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Mass., carried on the general theme of the day in his talk on "New England and Champlain History in Three Dimensions." Using a map of Old Sturbridge Village as an illustration of the practical application of restoration to the teaching of history, Mr. Newton showed how you "can put people back in time" by letting them see the restored buildings of a pioneer village in the chronological order in which they appeared in the community. He also described the correlated program of lecture and field trips worked out with Boston University, enabling a group of teachers to see at first hand buildings and museums illustrative of the periods under study. He cited examples of this type of three-dimensional history here in Vermont and the possibilities for further work, and declared that historians have an obligation to interpret our historical background to the widest possible audience in a way that will catch and hold the interest of people with only a casual interest in the past.

Watson B. Berry, a former Assistant Attorney General of the State of New York, who is now studying the emigration of Vermonters to Northern New York, rounded out the speaking program with his paper "Vermonters Cross Lake Champlain." He centered his talk about the early settling of Hopkinton, and the early letters and diaries he cited gave intimate glimpses of the day-by-day life of these hardy Vermonters. Particularly interesting was his description of the stoic acceptance of difficult living conditions by the pioneer women of the community — even to sharing the one-room cabin with the cow during the winter nights. His picture of the energy and enterprise of Roswell Hopkins, town founder, as well as his interesting examples of commodity prices in those days, brought this migration of Vermonters from Vergennes into sharp focus.

Briefest, but by no means least interesting feature of the day, was the story of the "Price of Liberty," the historical radio

programs of the Junior Leagues of the State of New York, as told by Dr. Louis C. Jones, director of the New York State Historical Association, and the opportunity to hear one recording, "The Iroquois Confederacy." Dr. Jones's account of the close cooperation of the many individuals and organizations involved in this undertaking led many Vermonters to hope that some day this state might undertake a similar venture. In this connection, he gave much credit to Mrs. Gordon Wightman of Grand Isle, formerly a resident of New York State and now, we are happy to say, a member of VHS, for her untiring labors and encouragement of young people's interest in history.

Those of you who were unable to go to the meeting will be pleased to learn that we hope to publish the papers by Miss Murray and Mr. Berry in forthcoming issues of the *Quarterly*. Mr. Folsom's paper on "The Battle of Valcour Island" is appearing in the current number of that journal. We shall be glad to send a copy of the program of the Sixth Conference, which includes summaries of the speakers and topics of the preceding conferences, to any of our members who wish to have one.

THE WHITE SYMBOLS OF THE VERMONTER'S FAITH

The Story of a Church **A. W. P.**

He had come from far across the continent with his family to visit Vermont; and he said he had one reason for coming: "To see a white steeple peering from the trees in a Vermont village." I told him he could see that beautiful symbol of man's immortality in a mortal earth practically everywhere he visited in Vermont.

The tides of change that swept our people from the hill villages and the valleys left in most cases churches sturdily built in years past; but the reduced congregations and reduced funds made the upkeep of such churches a difficult problem. For nearly fifty years and more the journey was downward, but in recent years many of the churches have been rescued, and face the years sturdily again because both local folks and those far scattered rallied to save these symbols which are as much a part of Vermont as the hills and mountains themselves.

I should like to tell briefly the story of such a rescue, not only because of its intrinsic interest, but because the procedure is one that can be used again and again to save some cherished church from passing.

Here is the history of the Christ Church of Guilford:

Brief History of Christ Church, Guilford

Abridged from Historical Address of John E. Gale at Old Home Day, 1928

March 4, 1817—A number of townspeople met at the house of Artemus Gale. A committee was chosen to raise $1300, a considerable sum for the period, for the purpose of erecting a suitable house for the worship of Almighty God.

March 31, 1817—This sum has been obtained, so a committee to superintend the building was chosen: Ephriam Gale, Nahum Cutler, Calvin Harris, Stephen Gregory, Artemus Gale. Capt. Elihu Field was appointed the Meeting House Clerk.

May 8, 1817—The Meeting House was raised—volunteer work—Frame timbers hewn on the spot, 9 inches square. Smaller timbers and boards sawn at Levi Boyden's up-and-down saw mill on Broadbrook. The raising participated in by the entire community.

Feb. 5, 1818—Majority of pews sold at auction to raise money for the use of the church and as a means of allotting the pews — $40 - $100 each. When first built this was a Union Church with no particular doctrine.

Dec. 1818—Voted to become the Protestant Episcopal Church and Society in Guilford. About sixty families joined in the new organization: 29 being in the vicinity of East Guilford; 8 being in the vicinity of Guilford Center. Remainder scattered over the easterly part of the town.

The bronze bell weighing 500 pounds was installed in January 1830. The expense was contributed by 51 persons.

This Church was for many years a very strong force in the community. It was the Mother Church of St. Michael's, Brattleboro.

In 1893, as so few members of the or-

Christ Church, Guilford, Vermont

ganization remained, the title in the church property was conveyed to the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont.

Occasional services only have been held for some years.

Under the leadership of John C. Gale (VHS) 19 Oakland Avenue, Arlington 74, Mass., (who will receive contributions), the campaign to save the historic church began. In his early statement he said: "The loss of this 133-year-old structure would be a blow not only to Episcopalians and to the Guilford people, but to all who love fine old colonial buildings, to ex-Vermonters and tourists alike."

A Christ Church Fund Committee was organized: John C. Gale, pres.; Charles E.Evans, treas.; Guilford—Mrs. Ralph Bullock, Mrs. Starr Clark; Mrs. Warren Lazelle; Mrs. Richard Tracy; out-of-town —Mrs. Fay Jacobs; Brattleboro—Mrs. John Dunham, Mrs. Richard E. Gale, A. G. Gallop, Atkins King, Jr.; Miss Clara Perry; Mrs. Clarence Shaw; Mrs. Alfred Tier, Mrs. Wm. Cudworth, Miss Annie Mellen.

It was estimated that $5000 was needed; from this fund with the aid of volunteer labor the structure could be painted and maintained. On July 20th (our latest information) $4400, largely cash, had been collected, and the goal of $5000 seems certain.

Articles of Association were filed with the Secretary of the State of Vermont and the organization meeting of the Incorporated Society for the Preservation of Christ's Church in Guilford was held July 7th in Brattleboro.

This plan for saving the church is marked by highly intelligent planning; for instance here is the concrete, clearly worded purpose of the Society:

"The preservation of Christ's Church in Guilford on its original site forever; to provide for the restoration and preservation of the Church as an historic landmark and an example of early New England architecture and as the First Episcopal Church in Vermont; to provide for the care and maintenance of the building; to provide for the care and maintenance of the grounds; to provide for the improvement and preservation of the building and grounds in substantially its original status but with inconspicuous modern improvements for the convenience and comfort of persons and the more effective safeguarding of the building and grounds, and cooperating and assisting in the maintenance of the cemetery as part of the restoration of the original Church grounds."

Sad experience has shown that a church can be saved, but immediately after interest tends to wane, and then another generation has the battle over again. If, however, the church becomes an integral part of the community, its life tenure is that of the community. Here are some wise provisions, it seems to us:

"The Church may be used for the following purposes: 1. Episcopal religious services; 2. Concerts, conferences, lectures or other cultural or educational functions of a non-sectarian character; 3. For Protestant religious rites, for baptisms, marriages or funerals of residents of Guilford or descendants of residents of Guilford or members of families of either of such; 4. As a museum through restoration and improvement and maintenance of an old New England Episcopal Church and of allied memorabilia."

And here is the key basis for the long continuance of the wise planning:

"The Incorporators elected seven of the nine trustees on July 7th, to get the organization going. The plan for the future is as follows:

1. Five trustees (one each year) to be elected by the trustees for five-year terms.
2. Two trustees to be elected (one each year) for two-year teams, by and from the contributing members. (All persons who contribute funds, labor or material and who have signed the by-laws).
3. Two trustees to be elected (one each year) by the trustees and contributing members from nominations by the Vestry of St. Michael's, Brattleboro."

The Society salutes and congratulates Mr. Gale and his associates. While the Society has no funds to assist in such good work, it is willing to serve as best it can in furthering the rescuing and maintenance of other old churches which stand like "beacons among our Vermont hills." Mr. Gale's correspondence is all on file in our offices; it represents a procedure that can be followed anywhere by a group with conviction and a willingness to work for an objective that aims, not at a day in a dying present, but a century of a living past.

THE INTEREST IN VERMONT HISTORY WIDENS

Our Local Societies Are Alert **A. W. P.**

This sentence from Prof. Allan Nevin's address at the summer session of VHS in July, 1950 has traveled widely and been widely quoted: "The most difficult part of history to obtain is the record of how plain men and women lived, and how they were affected by the economic, social, and cultural changes of their times; *the most fascinating part of history is this same record.*" We have italicized the last clause, because we are hearing an historian, internationally known, phrase an idea that is often forgotten, particularly among those of us who, trained in the older concept of history think of it as a story of battles and political events only.

It is in this fascinating field of history as plain people lived it that the local society has its golden opportunity; and here at VHS we are aware of an awakening interest throughout the state. We are anxious to do all we can to further it.

At Norwich, Vt., in one of the most historic areas in the state, under the leadership of C. C. Hills (VHS) a strong historical society was organized on August 6. The speaker at the meeting was P. H. Cummings (VHS) of Woodstock, correspondent, world traveler and lecturer on international themes, who spoke most effectively on the function of Vermont as a stabilizing and faith-retaining factor in a disorganized and unhappy world. At the business meeting, these officers were elected: James Huntley, pres.; Miss Beverly Stickney, vice pres.; Mrs. Louise Johnson, sec.; Garey Waterman, treas. Mr.

Hill writes: "Mr. Waterman lost no time in collecting the $1 dues voted, and seemed to have little difficulty in this task." Committees appointed: Research—Mrs. E. J. Butler. (She has already done notable work in setting up historical exhibits for the schools and in interesting children in the town's history.) Membership—Col. Burr Irwin; program and publicity—Ernest E. Belanger; curator—Mrs. Bertrand Perry.

And here are the officers of the Morristown Historical Society: Miss Anna L. Mower, pres.; Ronald Terrill, vice pres.; George Goodrich, sec.; Miss Eloise Stafford, treas.; executive committee: the officers and O. P. Warren and Mrs. Lena Sanders.

Mrs. Elizabeth L. Rixford sends us notice of the meeting of the Franklin County Folklore Society (a newspaper notice referred to it as the Franklin County Historical Society, but we will assume Mrs. Rixford is right). The officers: Laurence Oliver—pres.; George Ransom—vice pres.; Mrs. Pitt Bates—sec.; Roger Pratt—treas.

The idea is a new one, we know, but we hope all the local historical societies of the state will send us early news about their summer meeting. We will publish the dates and the programs if they reach us. Not only do many of our members have some local interest in such gatherings, but we have thousands of visitors who visit the state because of its history, and they like to attend meetings that have the vitality of the past in them. The Poultney Historical Society, headed by one of our members, Geo. C. Sprague, met August 18th with a program centering on "Poultney's Contribution to American Journalism"; Horace Greeley, founder of the *New York Tribune,* and George Jones, co-founder of the *New York Times,* were Poultney boys and served their apprenticeships on the *Northern Spectator* in Poultney.

The Woodstock Historical Society, whose godfather is the Hon. Ernest A. Spear (VHS) will have its house open Monday through Saturday until Oct. 20. The Woodstock region is rich in historical materials, and the house is worth seeing.

Castleton's Colonial Day is already famous, and next year we hope to announce the date early. Nineteen homes and buildings were open to inspection, and there were other entertaining and important features of the program for the day.

The second annual meeting of the Williamstown Historical Society was held August 17. This society is very much alive under able officers. The notice did not reach us in time for us to print the program. We must have a month's notice at least. While it may seem easy to issue a small publication like *News and Notes,* it is actually a complicated problem, and takes time.

The Hartford Historical Society informs us through its secretary, Miss Ruth B. Hughes, that it is planning a picnic and visit to old homes in the Jericho neighborhood. Down Chester way, the Pioneer Valley Historical Society, which includes several VHS members, has been active this summer.

These items cover all the news we have. Early next summer, we hope to be able to publish in *News and Notes* the dates of all summer meetings. Secretaries of the various societies should remember that not only do hundreds of our members visit Vermont, but in Vermont there is a host of others who have an interest in the local gatherings.

MORE NOTES ON VERMONT FAUNA

From the Notebook of an Unnaturalist

Professor Burgess Johnson (VHS) has been carrying on his scientific investigations into Vermont's unnatural fauna. He sends these notes from his home, Fiddler's Rest, in Stamford. The impact of his collated data is having decided repercussions in scientific circles. Here are the notes:

Nectoma cinerea

A few aged inhabitants of northern Vermont may recall that sixty or seventy years ago there were rumors about the discovery of a species of ground squirrel which had unusual characteristics. At that time reports from widely scattered farms found their way into local papers but were generally disbelieved. Recently a few laboratory notes and fragments of correspondence have come to light and confirm those almost forgotten rumors.

Oldest graduates of the University of Vermont may or may not recall a certain Dr. Niemand, for a short time tutor in Sanscrit and Biology, whose tenure was cut short because of gossip about his unorthodox experiments in the biological laboratory. It seems that he had become greatly interested in western-American "pack rats" *(Nectoma cinerea),* those interesting creatures common to mining camps which carry off from cabins and tents any portable object with no apparent reason other than to store it away. They are a common nuisance, as they have been known to steal eyeglasses, coins, false teeth and similar items, and conceal them, to the great inconvenience of the owners.

It occurred to Dr. Niemand that he might be able to inject into the brain of one of these creatures a fluid which would bring about what psychophysiologists term *ideational apraxia,* thereby reversing the animal's normal mental processes and causing it not to take things away but to bring them back.

Apparently his experiments were successful; but because of his dismissal from the University his biological pets were allowed to escape, and doubtless increased in their wild state and were caught here and there by farmers who thought them a species of ground-squirrel. They were easily tamed, and must have proved so profitable that it is easy to understand why any Vermont farmer owning a specimen would say as litt'e about it as possible.

For the eager creatures, having no inclination to steal, but only to restore, and having no recognition of ownership, would return to their masters interesting objects from a wide range of countryside. Whether any specimens remain alive in these parts I cannot say, but I have seen in some of our Vermont farmhouses those triangular walnut or mahogany "what-nots" in parlor corners or overcrowded mantel shelves which lead me to suspect that some specimens are still at large.

Razoos

Can any fellow-Vermonter supply me with data as to the Green Mountain Razoo? I remember hearing about them in my boyhood, but what I then learned is too vague a memory, and the facts too sketchy for use in these notes. I should, of course, prefer first-hand evidence, and lacking that, any authenticated and purely scientific data from dependable sources.

All that I remember about the razoo is that he lived on the slopes of our higher mountains, and traveled always in one direction, so that the legs on one side of his body were shorter than the others. Whether he was born with a pair of shorter legs, and therefore could go up or down the mountain in only one direction; or whether he followed a racial habit and always climbed up or down in one direction and thus wore off the legs on one side, is one of the things I want to know. I vaguely recall being told that he was always wild and dangerous, but one could easily escape from him by running the wrong way. Can anyone tell me what he did when he came to level places? Obviously, he couldn't turn around.

I know what I'd do: I'd lie down,—and just keep on lying.

DORMAN BRIDGMAN EATON KENT

A Fine Career Ends

Mr. Kent, for many years an officer and interested member of the Society, died July 23rd in the Heaton Hospital in Montpelier.

He was born in Calais, Vt., and his interest in his native town never flagged. He was in many senses its unofficial historian, and not only was his collection of historical materials impressive, but his gift as a raconteur gave tales of the town, and for that matter, the entire Montpelier area, a zest that brought him many friends and an ever-widening reputation.

He was particularly interested in an organization known in Montpelier as "The Club"—a group of Montpelier men devoted to more or less literary interests, of which he was a member for forty-six years.

Mr. Kent entered the employ of the National Life Insurance Company in 1894 and remained with them in various capacities throughout his business career. He became a member of the Historical Society in 1909. He was librarian of the Society for twelve years, secretary-treasurer for a period, also vice-president and president. In one way or another he was

active in the interest of the Society for forty-two years, and his contributions and efforts toward its progress form a lasting record.

INTERESTED IN SQUARE DANCES?

A Square Dance Festival

On sullen days — we all have them — we like to think of our members who are taking part in activities that promote pleasure and at the same time historical values that accent some phase of the past and present life of the state.

Mr. Herbert E. Warren, Fairlee, Vt., is chairman of the Vermont Labor Day Week End at the Lake Fairlee Club, Ely, Vt., and the Lake Morey Casino, at Fairlee. There will be a solid three-day program of dance experience under a nationally known director of square dancing. Anyone anxious to improve his form as a dancer, caller, or group leader is welcome.

OUR STORY OF THE MONTH

A Fishing Tale

The ancestor of this yarn probably dates back to the Ark, but the Vermont version appears in an old diary of 1855. One morning a little after dawn on a morning of thick fog, a local doctor on his way after an early call in Woodbury, Vt., gave an oldtimer with a fine string of bass a "lift" in his buggy. The string interested the M. D., and he asked the immortal question: "What'd you catch them with? How'd you see where to fish in this fog, anyway?"

The oldtimer hemmed a bit. "Caught 'em with worms, best bait there is, but you got to git up early. Couldn't see the water with the fog; so I jest cast out. Ye know, Doc, that fog was so thick, them bass was swimmin' around in it catchin' mosquitoes! I tossed out a worm in that fog an' it stayed there. Easiest fishin' I ever had. Pretty thick fog, that was."

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VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Montpelier, Vermont

Sec. 34.66
P. L. & R.

Volume 3 September 1951 Number 1

Statue of Lafayette—University of Vermont Campus
Courtesy of the University of Vermont Publicity Bureau

THE GENERAL'S RETURN AND FAREWELL

Lafayette Visits Vermont in 1825

Here in Vermont it can be said with truth that "old soldiers never die." They live on in the minds and hearts of the people. Today, while the excitement of a great general's homecoming still surges through the national consciousness, our thoughts turn to the homecoming of another beloved hero—General Lafayette—and his memorable farewell visit to Ver-